

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/724,975

Examiner

Minh Dieu Nguyen

Applicant(s)

PANG ET AL.

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2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to May 18, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-8.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 November 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/3/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

1. This action is in response to the communication dated May 18, 2005 with the amendments to claims 2-3 and 8 and the withdrawal of claims 9-16.
2. Applicant's election with traverse of claims 9-16 in the reply filed on May 18, 2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the combination (group b, claims 9-16) does require the particulars of the subcombination (group a, claims 2-8). This is found non-persuasive and the restriction requirement is maintained.

The examiner maintains that the combination, group a does not require the particulars (i.e. storing plurality of decryption keys and storing configuration data in configuration memory of the PLD). The subcombination, group b has separate utility such as configuring a PLD wherein the PLD can be protected differently than the method of group a. Therefore, inventions in this relationship are distinct and related as combination and subcombination.

3. Claims 2-8 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to programmable logic devices (PLDs), more particularly to protecting a design for configuring a PLD. Each independent claim (claims 2 and 8) identifies the uniquely distinct feature "disabling partial configuration of the PLD" to prevent malicious code from being loaded on the device (as explained in the remarks section dated May 18, 2005 by the applicant and as stated in the specification page 34, line 26 to page 35, line 9). The closest prior art, Kean

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(2001/0015919) discloses the method and apparatus for secure configuration of a field programmable gate array, fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dieu Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3873. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:00-2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Minh Dieu Nguyen
Examiner
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mdn
7/26/05


EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER